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## SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— A number of American workers in biology desiring to have established an association of American naturalists for business purposes, held a meeting at Springfield, Mass., April 10 and 11, when an organization was effected, and discussions as to laboratory methods and other subjects were held.

The intention is to have an annual meeting for the purpose of discussing topics of common interest for which, at present, no opportunity is afforded, as for example :

Museum interests, in connection with which each museum director could indicate his plan of work, the special groups of which he was making exhaustive collections, so that work may not be uselessly duplicated in many places ; methods of museum work, methods of exhibition, etc.

Methods of laboratory work ; laboratory technique ; new and valuable points in staining, mounting, cutting and preserving of sections.

Systems of instruction in various departments of Natural Science ; methods with small elective classes ; with large college classes.

The position which the observational sciences should hold in the college curriculum.

The amount of natural science which should appear in college entrance examinations. The amount and character of such instruction in preparatory schools, etc.

At the closing session it was voted to name the organization "The Society of Naturalists of the Eastern United States." Professor A. Hyatt, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was chosen president ; Professors H. N. Martin, of Johns Hopkins University, and A. S. Packard, Jr., of Brown University, vice-presidents ; and Professor S. F. Clarke, of Williams College, secretary. It has twenty-seven members, representing all prominent colleges in its district.

— The Coast Survey will, during the present season, complete the triangulation connecting the survey of the coast with that of the lakes. Besides the work of surveying and resurveying the coasts, there is now being carried on a system of triangulation which is intended to cover the whole country, and work is now being carried on in ten different States, viz., New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin. While this is intended mainly as an aid and to furnish data to the different States which contemplate geological and geodetic work, as in the case of the State of New York, which is doing the work of preliminary triangulation for herself, it is also of great importance to the general government in the establishment of post routes for military purposes,

etc. So many applications have been made to the Coast Survey for data for maps of particular parts of the country, that the Bureau has determined upon the compilation of data for a general map of the United States on a scale of ten miles to the inch, which will be exhaustive and complete so far as that scale will allow. It will be superior to anything in the map line hitherto issued by the government. The map will be published in several parts, and form a sort of atlas, the New England States being in one part, and equal amounts of territory covered by the others. This map will be issued probably during the coming year.

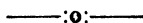
—The 10th annual report for the year 1881 of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota is a volume of a little over 250 pages, poorly printed on very cheap paper; the maps well engraved, but the other illustrations (not done in the State, however) not of a high order. There is no table of contents. The field work has been continued by Mr. Upham, aided by Mr. H. V. Winchell. Most of the report is devoted to lengthy lists of rocks, and a translation and reprint of Kloos' geological notes on Minnesota, which first appeared in the Journal of the German Geological Society.

The zoölogical portion consists of descriptions, by Mr. C. L. Herrick, of new forms of Copepod and Ostracode Crustacea from the fresh waters of the State, and include a description of a new species of crayfish (*Cambarus signifer*). This part is illustrated by eleven full-page photo-engravings. Considering the many interesting questions connected with the occurrence and distribution of the fresh-water Crustacea, the State authorities might do worse than further the biological studies so well begun in this report.

—Vegetable parasitism in fishes appears, from recent observations by MM. Olivier and Richet, to be so constant that it may be regarded as normal. They examined about 150 different fishes taken in the channel and the Mediterranean, and in all of them they found in the peritoneal liquid, in the lymph, in the blood and so in all the tissues, microbes more or less numerous, having all the characters of land-microbes and capable of similar reproduction. These organisms were mostly the bacterium called *Bacillus*. (In other vertebrates, it is to be noted, microbes are not found in the blood and the lymph.) The authors cultivated the microbes successfully. They also repeatedly made an experiment which consisted in putting a whole fish or part of it in paraffine melted at 120° or 140°. After solidification the paraffine was coated with several layers of collodion and Canada balsam. The tissues thus guarded from atmospheric germs, all showed, after a few weeks, an extreme development of microbes (which were not those of putrefaction). The authors propose to investigate the mode of

penetration of these parasites and their influence on the vital functions.—*English Mechanic*.

— Professor J. P. Lesley begins, in Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, No. 112, an interesting biographical notice of the late Swiss naturalist and geologist, Desor, who at one time was so closely identified with American geology and zoölogy during his residence in this country.



## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, March 30.—Communications were made by Mr. Newton P. Scudder on the length of the hatching period of the domestic fowl; by Dr. Thomas Taylor on section cutting and mounting of hard woods; and on a new parasite in fowls, of the nature of *Trichina*. Exhibition of specimens included specimens illustrating Accidents to animals, by Mr. F. A. Lucas; The bones of the sea cow (*Rhytina*), by F. W. True; Another jumping seed, Remarks on bee-fly larvæ and their singular habits, A burrowing butterfly larva, by Professor C. V. Riley. Professor J. W. Chickering, Jr., on Mount Kataadn; Professor L. F. Ward on hybrid oaks of the District of Columbia.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, March 21.—Professor S. P. Sharples gave an account of a visit to Turk's island; and Mr. S. Garman made some remarks on fossil horses.

April 4.—Professor Hyatt discussed the sudden appearance and quicker evolution of ancient types of animals; and Dr. M. E. Wadsworth spoke of the Bishopville meteorite.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, April 2.—The following paper was presented: An inquiry into the carbon present in bituminous shales, by Professor John S. Newberry.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, March 14.—Mr. R. B. Lawrence read a paper entitled, "Two weeks in Norway," illustrated by the lantern; Professor E. C. Pickering read a paper on mountain observatories; and Mr. A. E. Scott spoke on the exploration of the Twin Mountain range.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Feb. 13.—Papers presented: "On a new *Unio* from Florida," by B. H. Wright; "Catalogue of the Fishes of the Atlantic Coast," by Jos. Swain and G. B. Kolb; "Notes on the Birds of Westmoreland county," by C. H. Townsend. Mr. Townsend called attention to the albino birds in the collection of the Academy. Dr.